

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 14054 291039Z

21

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 INR-05 L-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SP-02 RSC-01 /035 W

----- 026027

P R 290947Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8730

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 14054

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGSC PINT, RP

SUBJECT: OSMENA/LOPEZ EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED

1. SENATOR TANADA TOLD EMBASSY NOVEMBER 29 THAT FOLLOWING BARGAINING SESSION BETWEEN SENATORS TANADA AND DIOKNO, AND DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE THAT ENDED 6 P.M., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, ENRILE AGREED IN WRITING TO RELEASE OF OSMENA/LOPEZ IN STAGES AND RELEASE OF OTHER DETAINEES AS WELL. STRESSING NEED FOR PRESERVING IMAGE OF REGIME, ENRILE AGREED TO A) MOVING OSMENA/LOPEZ TO V.LUNA HOSPITAL FORTWITH (THEY ARE THERE NOW); B) SUBSEQUENT GRANT OF DAY PASSES TO VISIT FAMILY; C) RELEASE FROM DETENTION IN FEBRUARY UNDER SAME CONDITIONS AS THOSE IMPOSED ON DIOKNO. NO CHARGES WILL BE BROUGHT AGAINST THEM. DETAINEES ARE EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30. THOSE RELEASED WILL INCLUDE TANADA'S SON PLUS JAKE LOPEZ AND GEORGE GADDI, ALL EXECUTIVES OF ABS-CBN, SOME PERSONS FROM OSMENA SIDE PLUS A NUMBER OF OTHERS.

2. ACCORDING TO TANADA, OSMENA WAS ALREADY BEGINNING TO SHOW SIGNES OF DEBILITATION FROM FAST WHICH HAD BEEN STRICUTLY ADHERED TO DESPITE EFFORTS OF AFP TO TEMPT THEM WITH FOOD OR TO THREATEN THEM, ACCOMRDIING TO TANADA, WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 14054 291039Z

PLANS TO BRING CHARGES AGAINST THEM. TANADA SAID FAST

HAD BEEN VERY CAREFULLY PLANNED IN ADVANCE BETWEEN TANADA DIOKNO AND OSMENA/LOPEZ. TANADA FELT THAT FAST HAD ACHIEVED ITS PURPOSE AND THAT STAND OF AMERICAN PUBLISHERS AGAINST DETENTION OF LOPEZ AND REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS IN GENERAL HAD BEEN STRAW WHICH HAD FINALLY BROKEN REGIME'S BACK.

3. AP HAS REPORTED RELEASE OF OSMENA/LOPEZ INCLUDING AN UNATTRIBUTED ALLEGATION THAT TWO MEN HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN NOVEMBER 1972 NOT ONLY FOR PLANNING ASSASSINATION OF MARCOS BUT OF PRESIDENT SUHARTO, WHO VISITED PHILIPPINES IN FEBRUARY 1972. REFERENCE TO SUHARTO REPORTEDLY INCLUDED IN COPY OF CHARGES FILED AUGUST 8, 1972 NAMING THEM AS PART OF 12 MAN ASSASSINATION SYNDICATE. AP STATES GOVERNMENT HAD NO COMMENT ON RELEASE OR CHARGES.

4. COMMENT: HUNGER STRIKE AMPLIFIED BY ORCHESTRATED EXTERNAL PRESSURES OF FOREIGN PRESS AND SUPPLEMENTED BY COMPLEMENTARY INTERNAL PRESSURE EXERTED BY ARCHBISHOP CLEARLY HAS FORCED GOVERNMENT TO CAVE. ULTIMATE INTENT OF CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT DETENTION POLICY NOT YET EVIDENT, BUT, ASSUMING REGIME KEEPS ITS WORD, RELEASES WILL CONSTITUTE SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATION OF POLITICAL PRISONER ISSUE. ACCORDING TO TANADA, ONLY POLITICIAN OR POLITICALLY-LINKED INDIVIDUAL OF ANY SUBSTANCE GOVERNMENT WILL HOLD ASIDE FROM AQUINO-WHOM HE WAS CERTAIN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT RELEASE-WOULD BE FORMER MAYOR GANZON WHO WAS TRIED AND CONVICTED OF MURDER.

5. DECISION NOT TO BRING CHARGES AGAINST OSMENA-LOPEZ PROBABLY MEANS LEHMANN WILL NOT BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL. GOVERNMENT OBVIOUSLY HAS LITTLE TO GAIN BY SEPARATE TRIAL THAT WOULD CAST DOUBT ON SINCERITY OF ITS POLICY, OR ON NEW SOCIETY GENERALLY.

6. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT GOVERNMENT WILL PLAY RELEASE OF INDIVIDUALS AS DEMONSTRATION OF ITS CONCERN FOR HUMANITY, AND ITS STABILITY. ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT MAY WIN SOME COMPLIMENTS FOR ITS ACTION, IT WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE OPENED ITSELF UP TO SIMILAR CAMPAIGNS ON OTHER ISSUES.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 14054 291039Z

NEXT ISSUE COULD BE GOVERNMENT ABUSE AS REPRESENTED IN ARCE AND ALVAREZ CASES AND, POSSIBLY, HILAO CASE (SEE SEPTTEL).
SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS RELEASE, POLITICAL PRISONERS, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANILA14054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740346-0531
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974113/aaaaacid.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OSMENA/LOPEZ EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED
TAGS: PINT, RP, (LOPEZ, EUGENIO), (OSMENA, SERGIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005